

Wayne Allard

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SENATOR ALLARD PROPOSES EQUITABLE SOLUTION TO BETTY DICK'S DILEMMA

Asks Park Service to offer to lease the property at fair market value

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senator Wayne Allard (R-Colorado) has presented the National Park Service with a proposal that would allow 83-year-old Betty Dick to retain use of the cabin in Rocky Mountain National Park where she makes her summer home after the 1980 agreement that allowed her to stay there expires on July 16.

Mrs. Dick has spent the last 25 summers in a home once owned by her late husband, Fred Dick, and his first wife Marilyn. In a divorce agreement, Fred Dick's first wife received sole ownership of the residence in question. He was given the right of first refusal should his first wife decide to sell the property.

The property was eventually sold to the United States and turned over to the National Park Service, but Fred Dick was not given the opportunity to exercise his right of first refusal to purchase the property. He then filed a lawsuit, and in a legal settlement between Mr. Dick and the government, the Park Service retained ownership of the property, and Fred and Betty Dick paid \$7,500 to be able to use the residence and 23 acres of public land in Rocky Mountain National Park for 25 years.

In a letter to the Park Service, Senator Allard wrote, "The agreement reached by the Dicks expires this year, and understandably, Ms. Dick is reluctant to leave the Park's property. Ms. Dick has been a good neighbor to the park, often opening the home up to the community.

"I know that the Park cannot extend the arrangement in its current form, however it is my understanding that a lease could be arranged if the property is leased at fair market value. I ask that the Park move forward with this option and offer a lease for the property at fair market value."

Under the Allard solution, Mrs. Dick could be allowed to rent the cabin for fair market value for the remainder of her life, after which it would revert to the Park Service.

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